# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2059
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
DRILLING ON OFF SHORE SITES BY OIL COMPANIES
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has proposed a three-year moratorium of drilling on off-shore sites by oil companies under NELP contracts due to shortage of drilling rigs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government has cross-checked with global rig leasing companies on the veracity of claims by NELP contractors seeking relaxation of commitments and deadlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) A few E&P companies have approached Government seeking a drillingmoratorium for aperiod of about three years for deepwater areas in view of global shortage of deepwater rigs.No final decision has been taken by the Government on this issue.

(c) & (d) Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) coordinated a study by Rig Management NorwayAS (RMANS), in September, 2006 which brought out world wide rig situation as under:

- Currently worldwide drilling fleet is fully utilized. - Availability of Rigs in near term is very limited. - In deepwater market, no rig is available till 2008.